

News from the FPPC



California Fair Political Practices Commission
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FPPC Publishes Daily List of “one-stop shopping” for Independent Expenditure Information

To help ensure the public's right to know which interests are funding political campaigns, the Fair Political Practices Commission today unveiled a new addition to its website, providing a daily list of independent expenditures (IEs) made in support of, or opposition to, candidates in contested legislative races in open seats on the June 3rd primary ballot.

The FPPC website (www.fppc.ca.gov) provides an overview of independent expenditures made on behalf of candidates in 26 legislative races. Groups that make independent expenditures, as well as the daily and cumulative totals of independent expenditures made to support or oppose candidates, and the names of contributors who gave \$10,000 or more to each independent expenditure committee are listed.

“Full disclosure allows voters to make informed decisions before casting their ballots,” noted Ross Johnson, Chairman of the FPPC. “As the state's political watchdog, our agency wants to make certain that the people of California are fully informed about campaign expenditures.”

Independent expenditures pay for communications (e.g., a billboard, advertisement, mailing, television and radio commercials) that expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, but which is not made to, or at the behest of, a candidate.

These expenditures must be made completely “independent” of the candidate; no coordination can take place between the candidates or their campaigns and the entity that makes the independent expenditure.

Direct contributions to candidates in legislative races are limited to \$3,600 from a single source for each primary and general election; however, the courts have ruled that independent expenditures cannot be limited.

The commission is releasing a comprehensive report on Tuesday, May 20th examining how independent expenditures have impacted California elections since the limitation of direct contributions to candidates imposed by Proposition 34.

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